

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 OMB-01 SSM-03 /092 W
-----261932Z 124444 /53

R 261311Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5865
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION USUN
USINT BAGHDAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 2901

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SY, UR, IS
SUBJECT: ISRAELI REACTION TO ASAD VISIT TO MOSCOW

REFS: (A) MOSCOW 5320, (B) MOSCOW 5472, (C) MOSCOW 5617

1. WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE FOLLOWING INITIAL AND
PRELIMINARY ISRAELI REACTION TO THE VISIT OF SYRIAN
PRESIDENT ASAD TO MOSCOW BY THE MFA DIRECTOR OF NORTH
AMERICAN AFFAIRS (RAVIV). ISRAEL CONSIDERS THAT THE
VISIT WAS IMPORTANT FOR ASAD FOR THREE REASONS. FIRST,
IT IS IMPORTANT TO HIM THAT HE NOT ABADON THE
MILITARY OPTION,AND THE VISIT ENABLED HIM TO DISCUSS
RENEWED MILITARY DELIVERIES.SECOND,IT ENABLED HIM
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TO IMPRESS UPON THE U.S. AND UPON THE GOI THAT
HIS VIEWS MUST BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THE
MIDDLE EAST. THIRD, IT DISPLAYED HIS ABILITY TO
MANEUVER BETWEEN THE EAST AND THE WEST.

2. THE VISIT WAS ALSO IMPORTANT TO THE SOVIET
UNION. FIRST, IF ENABLED THE SOVIETS TO APPEAR

TO STOP ASAD'S APPARENT DRIFT TOWARD THE U.S.
SECOND, IT GAVE THE SOVIET UNION THE APPEARANCE
OF BEING INVOLVED IN ANY MOVE TOWARD NEGOTIATIONS.

3. THE COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE
VISIT HAD TWO POINTS WHICH INTERESTED THE
ISRAELIS. FIRST, THE REFERENCE TO STEPS DESIGNED
TO RAISE THE LEVEL OF THE DEFENSES OF SYRIA--THIS
CAN ONLY MEAN MORE WEAPONS DELIVERIES. SECOND,
THE PHRASE ALLUDING TO SYRIA'S NOTING THE
IMPORTANCE OF THE SOVIET ROLE AT GENEVA APPEARS
TO INDICATE THAT SYRIA HAS ACKNOWLEDGED A
GREATER IMPORTANCE FOR THE SOVIET UNION IN THE
NEGOTIATING PROCESS THAN WAS PREVIOUSLY THE CASE.
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Message Attributes

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